

Los Angeles Mission College

Instructor: Irving Ostrow
Email: ostrowio@lamission.edu
Instructional Building

Office Hours, Wednesdays
2-3:00 p.m.
Rm:28

Political Science 1 Course Syllabus-1/2013

Student Learning Objectives

1. To Understand the powers, roles, functions and limitations of the Federal State, and local governments and their impact upon individuals
2. Analyze current American domestic and foreign policies and be able to put them into a historical perspective
3. Differentiate initiatives, referendums and recalls in California Constitution and laws

Required Text: American Government and Politics, Bookstore Edition
Bardes, Shelley, Schmidt

Required Writing Assignment

Students are required to write a “Research Solution Paper” outline and 10 page paper, including references and works cited, in which you must identify a Political problem, discussed in Textbook or class and propose a solution or public policy that government can implement and explain which Branches of government must be involved and what actions they must perform. In order for the solution or new public policy to be implemented. Instructor must Approve topic and outline.

Student Topic Selection, Submitted-Feb.20 Paper Outline Draft-Submitted-March 13
Paper Outline reviewed and returned, Mar.27
Final Individual Research Solution Paper Due -- April 24
Extra-Credit Group Research Paper Class Presentations-May

Handouts: **Distributed in Class and online**

Supplemental Media References & Readings

KCET TV—Nightly 6 p.m., Newshour, plus CNN, CSPAN, OTHERS
Radio---Daily, 24hrs.--FM. 89.3, 89.9, 90.7 and A.M. 870-12:00-6:00 p.m., and A.M. 980 and 1070., or other stations
Local and National Newspapers, and
Internet News Articles

CLASS CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS

Written News Article Summary(1-2 pages)— 9 Written News Summaries Required For each weekly class,(9 week minimum). Submit a 1-2 paragraph news article summary about any newspaper or media newstory article that is about a government related public policy issue..(No Police Crime Stories) Identify who is saying

what about the Political issue, and identify the point of view of the individual or political organization represented...Describe any differences of opinion in the article. You may also use any internet news article.(Hard Copy).Submit your summary of news article (1-2 paragraphs) attached to the news article cut-out “hardcopy”, for selected presentation and discussion in class, as time allows. .Extra Credit for class presentations

Optional Extra Credit Assignment

1. You may receive Extra-Credit for participating as a State/City Election Pollworker, which is a paid position with the L.A.County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Office..You may apply online,at www.lavote.net/voter/Pollworker, or call 1 800 815-2666x7.

Textbook Weekly Reading Assignments

<u>Feb.6/13</u>	Chapter 1 - The American System (Unless otherwise specified read all chapter pages)
Feb.13-	Chapters 1
Feb.20	Chapters 2& 3, Constitution and Federalism
Feb.27	Chapters 6 & 7, Public Opinion and Interest Groups
Mar.6	Chapters , 8 & 9 Political Parties,Campaigns,& Elections
Mar.13	Review / Practice Exam-Scantrons/Paper Outline Due
Mar.20	Chapter 14, Domestic and Economic Policy
Mar. 27	Mid-Term –Scantron Return and Approval of Research Paper Outlines
March 29-April 5-	Spring Break
April 10	Return of Mid-Terms and Chapter 10,Congress
April 17	Chapter 11,Presidency-Chapter 12, Bureaucracy
April 24	Chapter, 13-The Courts AND INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE
May 1	Chapter 4-Civil Liberties-----GROUP PAPER CLASS PRESENTATIONS
May 8th	Chapter 5-Civil Rights -----GROUP PAPER CLASS PRESENTATIONS
May 15 TH	Chapter 15- Foreign Policy----GROUP PAPER CLASS PRESENTATIONS
May 22	REVIEW
May 29	FINAL EXAM-SCANTRONS

Exams

EXAMS Exams will be composed of 40 Multiple Choice Questions and 10 True/False questions each counting 2 points

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ABSENCES: There are no Excused Absences. Students with more than 2 ABSENCES will BE penalized with a lowering of grade. Students are expected to attend the full 3 hour class. I reserve the right to drop students for excessive absences or tardiness.

If you choose to drop class you are responsible for doing so through the Admissions office – before February 18th---in order to receive a Refund and without a W grade...Failure to withdraw,by student, may result in a F grade.....There is a limit Of 3 times to retake a class.

GRADES

<u>COURSE GRADES:</u>	Mid-Term Exam-----	MAXIMUM	200 points
	Final Exam		250
	Research- Solution Paper		150
	9 Newspaper Article Reviews		100
	GroupPaper Class Presentations-Extra-Credit		200
	Individual Newspaper Class Presentations		100

Maximum Total Points 1000 points

ASSIGNMENT GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS

A=100-90 POINTS B=89-80 POINTS C=79-70 POINTS D=69-60 POINTS
 F= 59-0 POINTS

EXAM GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS TO BE DETERMINED BY INSTRUCTOR

Since Political Science is the study of how people participate in the Shaping of public policy and decision-making, both directly and through elected representatives, your participation in class will be a practicum in the political process.

Additional School Policies

Cheating- unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student’s paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Plagiarism- Plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one’s own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:
 - failing to give credit by proper citations for others ideas and concepts, data and information,

statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions.

- failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, **whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof**

- Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution

- Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as essays, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures or similar works as one's own.

First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.

Recording devices in the classroom- Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more)

Disabled Students Services

Reasonable Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students requiring accommodations, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (phone [818/364-7732](tel:8183647732) TTD [818/364-7861](tel:8183647861)) and bring a letter stating the accommodations that are needed.